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truths, but which have notable exceptions; but of these we will mention but one. Referring to p. 45, Rem. 2, it is not an invariable rule that in the Eттаf'al stem, wherever the preformative is a *tau*, the other *taus* are written as one, to avoid the occurrence of three *taus*. The manuscripts often have three *taus* in such case; many of the Heracleian Gospels and kindred writings have them regularly.

The grammar has the praiseworthy feature of a good index.

Concerning the Manual by itself, there is little need of remark. The progressive method is good; the selections are intended in the main to correspond with those in Prof. Harper's *Hebrew Manual*, and are rather limited in range. "The last selection," says the preface, "is the introductory portion of the history of Rabban Soma [better Sauma], possessed in manuscript by the author and never before published. Being printed in the Nestorian alphabet, it will be useful as an introduction to the East Syriac system of writing." But the matter had been already printed, along with rest of the manuscript—except some scandalous mutilations; edited anonymously by one of the Urmî Lazarists, printed by Drugulin at Leipzig, and published by Maisonneuve at Paris, in 1888. Moreover, Prof. Wilson's Manual does not give it "in the Nestorian alphabet," but in the Estranghela, with Nestorian pointing.

The Manual has a double system of numbering the notes, which probably aim at utility in the class-room.

While in the statement of a number of elementary and of some minor matters we should not agree with Prof. Wilson, it would be improper and unjust not to recognize the labor and fidelity with which the bulk of the work is done; the books, together, will prove a most useful pair. But both Grammar and Manual are so full of matter that an *autodidakt* beginner would be overloaded. The best use must be in the class-room, with a judicious teacher.

ISAAC H. HALL.

BEZOLD'S KOUYUNJIK CATALOGUE.*

The second volume of Bezold's Catalogue appeared on November 26th. It contains Nos. KK. 2192–8162. This volume differs in several respects from vol. I. An attempt has been made to save as much space as possible, and hence the description of the various tablets is less complete. Only the size—in inches—is given and the number of lines. A convenient list of signs has been introduced, and these also play their part in diminishing the space necessary to the description. For example: "12 + 11 lines" = 12 lines on obverse and 11 on reverse; "10 + 11 . . . lines" = 10 lines on obverse, the reverse lost; "5 ± 7 lines" = 5 lines on obverse and 7 on reverse, but the minus sign has been added to indicate the possibility of the 7 lines being on the obverse and 5 on the reverse, etc., etc. It is not necessary in a catalogue to indicate the color of a tablet, whether baked or unbaked, number of cracks, erasures, etc., and hence I am inclined to think that the author has done well to omit these details. These can be added to the description when the text is published in full with notes.

* Catalogue of the Cuneiform Tablets in the Kouyunjik Collection of the British Museum, by C. Bezold. Volume II. Published by order of the Trustees, pp. ix. xxiv. and 421–900. London: 1891. Price, 15 shillings.

In the different tablets, Bezold has almost always given the "catch line" in the original cuneiform in support of his view as to contents. No attempt has been made to pass over difficulties. In many cases, several lines of the text are quoted.

One of the most important and helpful points is the complete bibliography under each number. Every possible reference has been added. These references could not have been demanded in a catalogue and hence they are the more welcome.

Almost every kind of tablet is represented in these numbers. I think that I can safely say that most of them, however, are omens, astrological forecasts and religious texts. There are also a great many historical fragments, and broken letters.

This volume, as does the first, shows an immense amount of painstaking work and a most exhaustive knowledge of the bibliography of the subject. No one was so well prepared to do this work as Bezold, and he has done the science an incalculable service in these volumes. For the first time, we are able to make a fairly good estimate of the contents of the K. collection. We can see what there is in this collection, what has been done in the way of publishing and translating, and what remains to be done.

The print is beautiful and very correct. I have noticed a few typographical errors, but none of any importance. The K. collection contains over 20,000 tablets, and I understand that Dr. Bezold will not only catalogue the remaining 12,000 but also all the other collections from Kouyunjik.

ROBERT FRANCIS HARPER.

British Museum, December 1, 1891.